

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 15, and 29 are independent.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,421,733 B1 (*Tso et al.*) in view of “Request for Comments 1521: MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) Part One” (*RFC*).

Claim 1 is directed to an e-mail processing method in which a data type of each part included in a text of a received e-mail is identified, the received e-mail being a multi-part e-mail. Further, it is determined whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type. Further, a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, is stored, if it is determined that the part can be processed. Further, a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, is deleted, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed.

Notably, the e-mail processing method of Claim 1 includes (1) determining whether each part included in a received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type, (2) storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part can be processed, and (3) deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed.

Tso et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for dynamically transcoding data transmitted between computers. The system is implemented in an

apparatus for use in transmitting data between a network server and a network client over a communications link. The apparatus includes a parser coupled to a transcode service provider. The parser is configured to selectively invoke the transcode service provider in response to a predetermined selection criteria.

The *RFC*, as understood by Applicant, specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community. The *RFC* discusses mechanisms for specifying and describing the format of Internet message bodies.

The Office Action cites column 10, lines 37-49 and column 2, lines 47-49 of *Tso* in rejecting Claim 1. Moreover, column 7, lines 15-54 of that patent are cited at the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

First, the Examiner states, at page 3 of the Office Action in connection with the cited portion at column 7 of *Tso*: “Therefore, the determining whether each part included in a received e-mail can be processed or ‘transcoded’ as described in *Tso*, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type or ‘predetermined selection criterion’ is disclose[d] in *Tso*.”

Applicant disagrees with this assertion. *Tso* does not teach or suggest “determining whether each part included in a received email can be processed or transcoded.” Rather, *Tso* merely compares a data stream with predetermined selection criterion to dictate which of transcode service providers 24 are invoked.

Second, in citing the portion at column 7 of *Tso*, the Examiner specifically focuses on the language of that portion which discusses “data type-specific preferences (for example, ‘never download’ images)”. At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that “*Tso* discloses wherein the image is stored or ‘downloaded’ if the image part can be

processed as determined by the preference and the image is not stored or ‘deleted’ if the image is not to [be] processed or ‘never download’.” Applicant does not agree, however, that the so-called “never download” images referred to in *Tso* are actively deleted; at most, they are merely not downloaded.

Third, Applicant submits that *Tso* does not teach or suggest anything at all about the situation in which a part of received data cannot be processed. *Tso* (see column 10, lines 44-49) discusses a scenario in which the parser 22 detects a match between the data stream and the predetermined selection criterion, leading to the direction of the data stream to the *appropriate* transcode service provider. *Tso* does not even discuss a scenario in which the parser 22 detects *no* match, or that in which there is *no* appropriate transcode service provider.

Applicant has found nothing in *Tso* that would teach or suggest determining whether a given body of data can, or cannot, be processed by its intended recipient, much less deleting a body of data that cannot be processed.

Accordingly, even if the *RFC* and *Tso* are combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner (or in any other manner), the result would not meet the terms of the claims.

Nothing in *Tso* or the *RFC*, whether considered either separately or in any permissible combination (if any) would teach or suggest (1) determining whether each part included in a received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type, (2) storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part can be processed, and (3)

deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed, as recited in Claim 1.

For these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tso et al.* and the *RFC*, either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 15 and 29 are apparatus and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

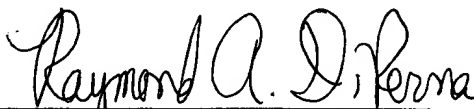
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raymond A. DiPerna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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